

ABILENE REFLECTOR.

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DEMOCRATIC COUNTY TICKET.

FOR TREASURER,
THOMAS KIRBY.
FOR SHERIFF,
J. J. MILLER.
FOR CORONER,
WILLIAM PERKINS.

A Little Peculiar.

It is just a little bit peculiar that republican "bosses," in their addresses to the people, should invariably wish to bury all feuds and discords in the party, and then draw on the years between 1860 and 1865 for a record. Hasn't the party any record since 1865? Or is it inconvenient to refer to its record of later years.

Jack Frost.

The above well known gentleman has made his appearance in the East and in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The effect of his visit to the East has been to drive the merry pleasure seekers home with chattering teeth; and in the Northwest he has left a blighting mark on the growing crops. Even out here in sunny, sunflower Kansas "the air bites shrewdly," and is a stinging reminder that summer is ended.

A Roland for an Oliver.

It is being claimed by the republicans that Ohio will have a republican majority next month. And she may. When in a normal condition, Ohio is republican, and if the republican majority is less than 10,000 the result will be a democratic gain. But the democrats are claiming Iowa! Democratic Iowa! Methinks the words have a sweet sound, Horatio, my boy, and yonder cloud looks like a weasel—very much like a weasel."

"Not Guilty."

After listening to a wearying amount of evidence and eloquent rhetoric, the jury in the Frank James case at Gallatin, Mo., brought in a verdict last Thursday afternoon at four o'clock of "not guilty." While the evidence offered was probably insufficient to convict, it would yet have been perfectly safe for the jury to have hung Frank on general principles. No one doubts the outlaw's cruel, bloodthirsty, murderous disposition, and the people of the country would have been better satisfied had a different verdict been rendered.

The Tables Turned.

The labor troubles of recent years in this country have caused a pretty general inquiry to be made into the causes which produce them. Why should the laboring classes of protected America be so discontented and uneasy? Why should the United States, with its protected industries and comparatively scant population, be more troubled with its laboring class than any European country? These questions have been asked for years, and they are just being answered.

Jay Gould appeared before the Senate committee on education and labor in New York last week, and in the course of his examination he said, in answer to a question: "Labor, as well as everything else, is governed by the law of supply and demand. In my opinion, there is a surplus of labor in this country, caused by immigration." "Labor, as well as everything else, is governed by the law of supply and demand." How does this statement apply to the great protected industries? Doesn't free labor pay protected prices for its necessities? Is it, then, on an equal footing with "everything else?"

This everlasting tariff question is about to prove a veritable boomerang. The great protected monopolies, the great monopolists, with Jay Gould at their head, seemed never to have considered labor worthy of protection, and now come the labor organizations and say that labor is as much entitled to protection as capital; that to foreign competition is due the low prices prevailing in the manufactures, and that American labor should be protected from the competition of the foreign article.

This demand makes the protectionist's head swim. It reduces all his arguments to absurdities and leaves him helpless. If it is right to protect capital it is right to protect labor; but see where this leads. If labor be protected then what is made by protection on the product will go to the protected artisan in higher wages, and what good will that do the class for whose benefit protection was designed? The question does not bother the advocates of free trade and free labor, but it is a stunner to protectionists.

Carlisle For Speaker.

The withdrawal of Blackburn from the contest for speakership of the next House of Representatives simplifies matters a great deal. It almost assures the election of either Cox, of New York, or Carlisle, of Kentucky. Both of these men are pronounced tariff reformers, and the election of either would prove satisfactory to the free trade democrats of the West. The democratic party is not wavering or hesitating on this great tariff question. It is declaring openly and aggressively for a "tariff for revenue only," and against all monopolies and combinations of capital. The choosing of the speaker of the next national house of representatives will be determined on these grounds, and Carlisle is at present the foremost man for that position. The election of Randall, a high protectionist, would be almost a fatal wound to the party. He must be defeated, and a man favoring a tariff for the needs of the Government must be placed in the chair. The voice and influence of the great West and the burdened operatives of the East will be heard and felt in the next campaign.

J. J. Miller.

Mr. J. J. Miller is the democratic nominee for Sheriff of Dickinson county, but the REFLECTOR does not wish to introduce him to its readers merely as a democrat. A man's politics, if not supported by true worth of character, will avail him nothing in a community of such intelligent and independent people as populate Dickinson county. And although the REFLECTOR is a democratic paper, it will never recommend or support a democrat for office unless it believes him to be in every respect worthy of it.

Happily, the REFLECTOR has no hesitancy whatever in recommending Mr. Miller to the favorable consideration of Dickinson county. He has been a resident of this county for eight years, and his conduct has always been gentlemanly and honorable. As City Marshal of Abilene he has discharged his duties faithfully, intelligently and well. He is possessed of honor, ability and nerve, and if elected he will make the County a most excellent and efficient sheriff. Mr. Miller is a manly man, and deserves well of our citizens.

Low Tariffs Always Increase Wages.

It is a fact that the so called "free trade" tariff of 1846, which largely reduced the duties on all classes of manufactures, gave the signal for the first decided increase of wages paid by American manufacturers. We have not the means of telling how great the advance was between 1846 and 1850; but it was undoubtedly considerable. Between 1850 and 1860, however, we have official statistics, which show that the average yearly wages advanced from \$245 in 1850 to \$289 in 1860. In 1861, the tariff was again raised, and the wages were reduced considerably; but this was to so large an extent the effect of the outbreak of war that we lay no stress upon it. The immense number of volunteers drawn off for the war caused a rise in wages during the following year, though not to any higher point than they had stood at under the low tariff of 1860. The entire increase in wages which afterward took place, and which has been so much boasted of as the result of a protective tariff, was due solely to the inflation of the currency and the demand for manufactures caused by the waste of war. But even with this nominal increase, there never was a time during which workmen's wages were materially higher in gold than they had been in 1860. They were at an extremely high point when the census was taken in 1870, and yet when reduced to gold the average wages of manufacturing workmen then were only \$302, as compared with \$289 in 1860, a nominal increase of 5 per cent. Estimated in purchasing power, these wages were equal only to \$242, as compared with the price of the necessities of life in 1860, being an actual decline, notwithstanding an enormous increase of the tariff, of \$47, or about 17 per cent.; and they were actually less in purchasing power than they had been in 1850. A rapid reduction of wages followed in the years 1874 to 1877. A gradual rise then took place, which became rapid in 1879. The census was taken for the period including June 1, 1879, to June 1, 1880, which was exactly the highest point of prices and wages in manufactures generally and especially in iron and steel. It was also a period of great inflation; all the paper currency being kept afloat, with the addition of an enormous amount of gold. Inflation, of course, causes a nominal increase in wages, but it also causes a still greater increase in prices. Nevertheless the average wages of manufacturing workmen in 1880, irrespective of their purchasing power, were only \$346, showing a gain of only 20 per cent. in 20 years, while there had been a gain of 20 per cent. in 10 years of a low tariff. This high average only lasted two years, after which wages were cut down fully 20 per cent., leaving the average wages no higher than they were 20 years ago; while the cost of living has greatly increased.

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